GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2841
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2004
SALT BASED INDUSTRY IN RAJASTHAN
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some salts based industries in different parts of the country, particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard;

(c) whether some of the salt industries set up in Rajasthan are running at loss; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) : No, Sir.

(b) : Does not arise.

(c) and (d) : Except from M/s Sambhar Salt Ltd., a subsidiary of Hindustan Salt Ltd. which is a Government of India Undertaking, Government have not received any report of losses in Salt Works in Rajasthan. The reasons for loss in M/s. Sambhar Salt Ltd are:-

i) Tough competition from other salt producers;
ii) Drought conditions for the last 4-5 years in Rajasthan;
iii) A major chunk of valuable brine being pumped out by a large number of private salt manufacturers in the nearby area;
iv) Non-availability of lake water in Rajasthan;
v) Implementation of recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission.